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Dallas

# USDA Club News

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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DALLAS, TEXAS

## Russell A. Vernon Wins USDA Club's "Man of The Year" Award For 1953!

Russell A. Vernon, veteran employee of the Commodity Stabilization Service, has been named "Man of the Year" by the USDA Board of Directors for 1953. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Vernon's name was submitted to the Board as the choice of the Certificate of Merit Committee, composed of the following USDA members: William F. Farrell, Chairman, Jefferson D. Reagan, Lee P. Pierson, Tulane S.

(Please see page 2.)

Wishing  
you  
all  
A Very  
Merry



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Jimmy  
H. H.

*notes* = 2 -

...AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, "FEAR NOT:  
FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE  
TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID  
A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD." ( Luke 2 : 10, 11.)

"LETTER TO THE EDITOR" ...

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Dallas, Texas,  
December 17,  
1953.

Dear Jimmy:-

Since this is the last opportunity I will probably have to acquire free publicity in the USDA News, I would like to have you publish this letter as the country newspapers do under "Letters to the Editor".

I feel that the USDA Club has been of service to a number of Department employees in the year 1953. If I am right in my assumption, credit for such success should go to Fred J. Faust, First Vice President; Rector B. Meyer, Second Vice President; Virginia L. Johns, Treasurer; and Helen C. Parks, Secretary; to all our Directors; and to the various committees and their chairmen. These people gave unsparingly of their time in the interest of the Club.

As the outgoing President, I want to thank each and every one for his contribution to the Club and to wish all a merry Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

*Howard Martin*

Howard Martin

P.S. Also, I think you have made a pretty good editor, Jimmy.

RUSSELL VERNON MAN OF THE YEAR  
(Cont'd from page 1)

Smith, and Albert I. Eads. This committee's choice was a happy one as Russell has ably filled a demanding chairmanship and through his efforts many worthwhile benefits such as merchandise discounts as high as 50 % off, were secured for USDA Club members.

Russell is completing his 17th year in the Department--his 9th with PMA--now Commodity Stabilization Service--where he holds the position of Assistant Chief of Field Operations. He started with the old Resettlement Administration back in 1935, which later became Farm Security, then Farmers Home.

Russell took time out during the war to do special duty on four major construction jobs, being assistant comptroller at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., assistant Chief Accountant at, first, Hope Proving Ground, Hope, Arkansas, and then at Marshall Texas, which was a TNT factory job. He wound up his war service as auditor at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, at Denver.

Hunting and fishing--in that order--are his hobbies. Still married to the same wife after 18 years (Virginia), he was "promoted" to father 2 years ago with the arrival of a son, Thomas Mark. He is a member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church. His selection was first announced at the Christmas party by President Howard Martin and later at an office get-together attended by his co-workers. President-elect Richard Richardson, and Chairman Farrell, Russell was presented the Certificate by his boss C.H. Moseley.



is published monthly at 912 South Ervay, 5th floor, Lowich Bldg SE-5611, Exten. 2044. Those of you who have something else to do can skip this. It is merely the meandering discourse of a broken-down, written-out ex-editor--after this issue, that is. Meeting deadlines with headlines is strenuous work at times. We've been trying to do it for 2 years. It has been a great honor being able to call or mail all news items to the above "bond" the ears of 10035--OHIGOSH! Make that 1035 address or phone number. readers. (We thought for a moment we were writing another "Texas Fact"! ) It has been a great responsibility, too, for 35 of those folks reside in Washington. We don't say they read USDA News but they do get it. (We know Doc Draheim and Elwood McEntyre scan it now and then, bless'em.) Want-ads are welcome but please keep 'em brief. JAMES L. (Jimmy) HYLES,

\* EDITOR \*

Doc will probably drop us a line saying "Thank heaven that's over! Maybe they'll get someone whose typewriter isn't afflicted with locomotor ataxia!"...And "Mac" will be quoting us. His USDA will want to tell everyone in the Department about our new "Man of the Year". (He does a bangup job--not a "banged-up" one!) ...We've been mighty lucky. No real bad typographical errors. We caught the worst one in time. Wrote "membersJip cards" instead of "membership cards in speaking of your USDA membership cards. Margaret Huber didn't get humiliated on that one. We've made some bad ones. As editor of our church newspaper (Cedar Crest Methodist) we recently wrote: "We were glad to see only a few unfilled seats as Brother Bob began his sermon." The printer neglected to set up the word "ONLY" which made it sound terrible. If we had been on salary we would have been fired, no doubt. As co-editor of our local Union publication we were recently responsible for placing St. Louis 1400 miles away from Dallas instead of 700. We did some fast footwork by explaining we meant round-trip. Obviously anyone leaving Texas means to return!...We've received perfect cooperation from everyone in USDA. If we wanted to run off the latest issue of this paper from our piledup desk on a million-dollar loan day we got the anguished but willing acquiescence of Roy Davidson, Lester Hatch and John Murphy. It was paternally okay with "Pappa" Spung (See below) and Howard Martin. Working at this job has been a grand experience--mostly because of the great guys and galls I've been privileged to work with.. both in FHA and USDA. It's fun too, to be able to speak out about someone you'd like everyone to know about. (It will embarrass the poor guy no end! --see below). Time to shut up. DIOS!

\* \* \* \* \*

*Jimmy Hyles*  
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O R R N . S P U N G ...

Usually when you see a name set up like that on the editorial page it means the poor fellow's dead, and the editor wants to say a few kind words. We don't think anyone will make the mistake of thinking O.N Spung is dead. But we want to pass the bouquet. We ain't going to pick out the thorns, either because the guy's no panty-waist. He's a ho-man, a modest man, a kindly man. He is also our boss. But we can't be accused of polishing the apple because come March 15 he and I and all of Area Finance FHA office will be out of a job or enroute to the new office in St. Louis. We don't know about "papa" Spung but we ain't going. After 17 years we say it with regret because we think FHA the finest of any governmental agency you could name. One of the reasons it is that, however, is because of men like our Area-Finance Manager, affectionately known as "Boss-man", or "Papa" Spung. He has a temper. He has been accused of being stubborn and hardheaded. (He's part Dutch!) He studied accounting at Ohio and Indiana Universities, holds a license under Texas laws been with FHA since '35, in Washington, Cincinnati, Amarillo, Dallas. Claims to be a real estate tycoon (ain't sold any houses lately, never to have been arrested. (What, with his driving!) to remember part of the Moose code from his NYOFR days. We only claim he is the best boss, the finest type of Christian gentleman, and we're mighty sorry the breakup of Area 3 Finance Office means goodbye for us.



## TREASURY SHOWS COMFORTABLE BALANCE TO BEGIN NEW YEAR...

President Howard Martin and Treasurer Virginia Johns proved to be good stewards for the USDA Club for 1953. The treasurer's report reveals a balance in the bank of \$216.60 as compared to a beginning balance of \$70.79--an increase of \$145.81. Total income from all sources are as follows: From watermelon party, \$33.75; Membership contributions, \$109.75; Income from Stover Candy sales, \$57.19; Commission from magazine subscriptions, \$7.35; Total income, 1953: 208.04; plus carry-over of \$70.79, equals \$278.83.

The disbursements were as follows: Stationery and stamps for bills for members, \$13.48; Loss from Christmas Party, \$43.75. Total expenditures: \$62.23. After deducting the disbursement total of \$62.23 from the total taken in and on hand (\$278.83) the Treasury has on hand \$216.60.

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## USDA OFFICERS FOR COMING YEAR NAMED.....

The following new officers will be installed at the January meeting of the Board of Directors: PRESIDENT, Richard W. Richardson, Commodity Stabilization Service, Commodity Office; FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, William G. Elliott, Commodity Stabilization Service, Compliance and Investigation Division; SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, Lawrence D. Smith, Farmers Home Administration, State Office; TREASURER, Evelyn Weedin, Agricultural Marketing Service, Foods Distribution Division; and Mary Nell Barnes, Commodity Stabilization Service, Commodity Office, SECRETARY.

The foregoing slate of officers were nominated by the nominating committee and there being no nominations from the floor, their election was made unanimous. The nominating committee's job was made more difficult due to the narrow range of possible candidates. Since the picture is changing from day to day in FHA no officers were selected from the Area Finance Office. Arch Rounsaville and his Committee are to be commended for a good job. Their selections are highly capable and will make outstanding officers for the year 1954, we sincerely believe.

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## HARD WORK CHARACTERIZES TENURE OF OUTGOING OFFICERS.....

Hard work and plenty of it was the order of the day during the past year for Howard Martin, Helen Parks, Virginia Johns, Fred Faust, Rector Meyer, and all the members comprising the board of Directors, committees, and committee chairmen. Very few members of the USDA Club are aware of the multitude of detail that has to be taken care of by somebody before they can enjoy a watermelon party or a Christmas party, or take advantage of merchandise discounts secured for them. The USDA News wishes to congratulate these ladies and gentlemen for a fine job.

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## TAB ROOM FOLKS LUCKY AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY...

The Christmas party door prizes were won by: TURKEYS, Lucy Lanter, CSS, Commodity Office, Program Operations; and Mona H. Jackson, CSS, Commodity Office Tab Room. HAMS, Houston Richey, FHA Finance Office Tab Room and G.R. McPherson, CSS, Commodity Office.

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FOR SALE :- New Outboard Motor, EVINRUDE, 7½ horse power. Still in the original factory carton '53 model. \$175.00. A.C. DOUGLAS, STA. 371, or, DR-4-0429.

WANTED TO BUY: Baby wardrobe, or chest of drawers.... Call extension 2007, or YA-7659. MARGARET SYFRETT, Acctg. Section